



Staff Photo

Standout track performers for Atkins are (left to right) Alfred Adams, Sylvester Johnson, Willis Miller, Charles Eaton and Jimmy Caldwell. Atkins won the All-Forsyth meet.

Atkins Wins Track Title Despite Poor Facilities

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By MARY GARBER
Staff Reporter

Atkins High School's track team has to travel to practice. The Camels' only track is an under-sized one and it doubles as the outfield for the baseball team.

"We're under something of a handicap," said Coach Robert Moore. "We have to go somewhere else for most of our practice sessions.

"Take last Monday, for instance. We went to Wake Forest, but they were having a track meet. So we went to North Forsyth. We got there just as the North track boys were finishing their practice. We held a workout and then we had to get on the bus and travel all the way across town to get home."

Yet, Atkins won the All-Forsyth track meet, outscoring Reynolds, the perennial champion.

was on both winning relay teams. He put Atkins in the lead in the mile relay with a fine 440. Though Caldwell does not run the 220, he trains at that distance.

"It helps me to run faster in the 100-yard dash," he said. Sylvester Johnson is a relay

runner. He runs the third leg on the 880 and the anchor position on the mile.

"The big thing in the relay is to get a good handoff," said Johnson.

Moore said that some of the coaches told him that Atkins should be host to the

next meet since the Camels won.

"We would have a real advantage if we did," said Moore with a smile. "We would have to run the relays on 12th Street and we are more experienced at dodging cars than the other runners."

Atkins has one hurdle, a battered wooden model that only barely resembles the sleek hurdles of today. But Alfred Adams of Atkins won both the low and high hurdles in the All-Forsyth meet and was named the most outstanding athlete.

"Oh, it's all right," said Adams with a shrug. "Leon Coleman (an Olympic star who is doing his practice teaching at Atkins) says that the first hurdle is the most important. So I just practice with one."

Charles Eaton won second place in the pole vault. He does most of his practicing in the high-jump pit.

Robert Redd hurt his leg broad-jumping but finished second. Willis Miller injured a finger while jumping but ran on the 880 relay team and set a meet record.

"This victory was a real team effort and under difficulties," said Moore.

Atkins has been chosen Team of the Week for its victory.

Depth Pays Off

Moore said that Atkins' depth paid off. "We picked up a lot of seconds and thirds and this helped," he said.

Charles Eaton said he went into pole vaulting because "I couldn't run and I couldn't jump."

He said he felt that Atkins' strength in the hurdles and the field events helped to win the meet.

"Coach (Elias) Gilbert helped me with the pole vault, and I have read a lot about it," he said. "And James Berry (Atkins' other pole vaulter) has worked with me, too."

Willis Miller figures he must be one of the few broad jumpers who landed on his own hand. But this unusual accident did not slow him down in running. He ran the anchor position on the 880 relay team which had a time of 1:31.5 for a meet record. He also finished fifth in the 220-yard dash.

Miller thinks Atkins' victory was a team effort.

Alfred Adams has developed confidence in his hurdling in his second year at the event. He set a meet record in the highs and tied the record in the lows. Adams said he likes the high hurdles best.

He also runs the third leg on the mile relay team.

"Running that 440 helps me in the hurdles," said Adams. "The meet was close until the mile relay. Most people didn't think I could run a quarter and I wanted to show them."

Jimmy Caldwell finished third in the 100-yard dash and